CLASSICS Illustrated

FEATURING STORIES BY THE WORLD'S GREATEST AUTHORS

No. 78

15¢

United States and Foreign

JOAN of ARC

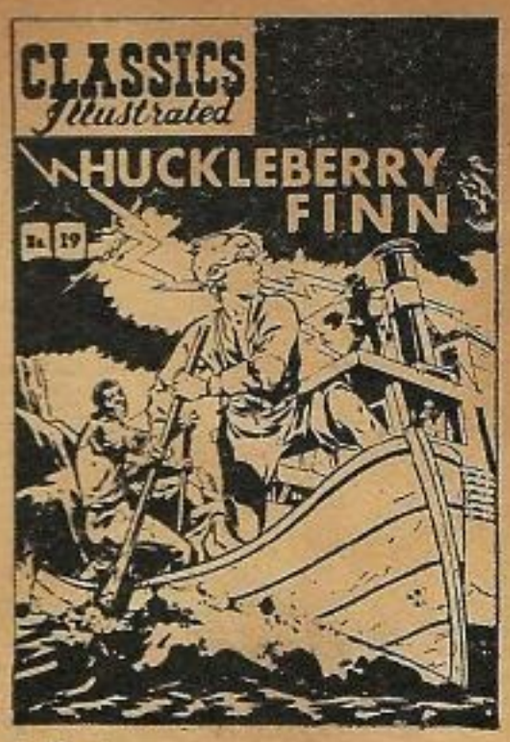
ALSO–

- A PIONEER OF SCIENCE STORY
- A HEROIC DOG STORY
- A FAMOUS OPERA

READ THE BEST IN THE WORLD'S FINEST JUVENILE PUBLICATION CLASSICS *Illustrated*

MAKE YOUR SELECTION FROM THESE THRILLING - EXCITING - ROMANTIC ADVENTURE STORIES

THEY'RE ONLY 15¢ EACH POSTPAID



1. The Three Musketeers
2. Ivanhoe
3. The Count of Monte Cristo
4. The Last of the Mohicans
5. Moby Dick
6. A Tale of Two Cities
7. Robin Hood
9. Les Miserables
10. Robinson Crusoe
11. Don Quixote
12. Rip Van Winkle and The Headless Horseman
13. Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
15. Uncle Tom's Cabin
16. Gulliver's Travels
17. The Deerslayer
18. The Hunchback of Notre Dame
19. Huckleberry Finn
20. The Corsican Brothers
21. 3 Famous Mysteries
22. The Pathfinder
23. Oliver Twist
24. A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
25. Two Years Before the Mast
26. Frankenstein
27. The Adventures of Marco Polo
29. The Prince and the Pauper
31. The Black Arrow
32. Lorna Doone
33. The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
34. Mysterious Island
37. The Pioneers
39. Jane Eyre
40. Mysteries
41. Twenty Years After
42. Swiss Family Robinson
44. Mysteries of Paris
46. Kidnapped
47. Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea
48. David Copperfield
49. Alice in Wonderland
50. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
51. The Spy
52. The House of the Seven Gables
54. The Man in the Iron Mask
55. Silas Marner
57. The Song of Hiawatha
58. The Prairie
59. Wuthering Heights
62. Western Stories
64. Treasure Island
67. The Scottish Chiefs
68. Julius Caesar
69. Around the World in Eighty Days
70. The Pilot
72. The Oregon Trail
75. The Lady of the Lake
76. The Prisoner of Zenda
77. The Iliad
78. Joan of Arc
79. Cyrano de Bergerac
80. White Fang
81. The Odyssey
82. The Master of Ballantrae
83. The Jungle Book
84. The Gold Bug
85. The Sea Wolf
86. Under Two Flags
87. A Midsummer Night's Dream
88. Men of Iron
89. Crime and Punishment
90. Green Mansions
91. The Call of the Wild
92. The Courtship of Miles Standish and Evangeline
93. Pudd'nhead Wilson
94. David Balfour
95. All Quiet on the Western Front
96. Daniel Boone
97. King Solomon's Mines
98. The Red Badge of Courage
99. Hamlet
100. Mutiny on the Bounty
101. William Tell
102. The White Company
103. Men Against the Sea
104. Bring 'Em Back Alive
105. From the Earth to the Moon
106. Buffalo Bill
107. King—of the Khyber Rifles
108. Knights of the Round Table
109. Pitcairn's Island
110. A Study in Scarlet
111. The Talisman
112. The Adventures of Kit Carson
113. The Forty-Five Guardsmen

MAIL COUPON BELOW OR A FACSIMILE . . .

GILBERTON CO., INC. DEPT. S. 101 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.
IN CANADA: GILBERTON CO. (CANADA) LTD., 311 TERMINAL "A" TORONTO 1

Herewith is $_____ for _____ issues of CLASSICS *Illustrated* as circled below:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	31	32	33	34	37	39	40	41	42	44	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	54	55	57	58	59	62	
64	67	68	69	70	72	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	
93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113				

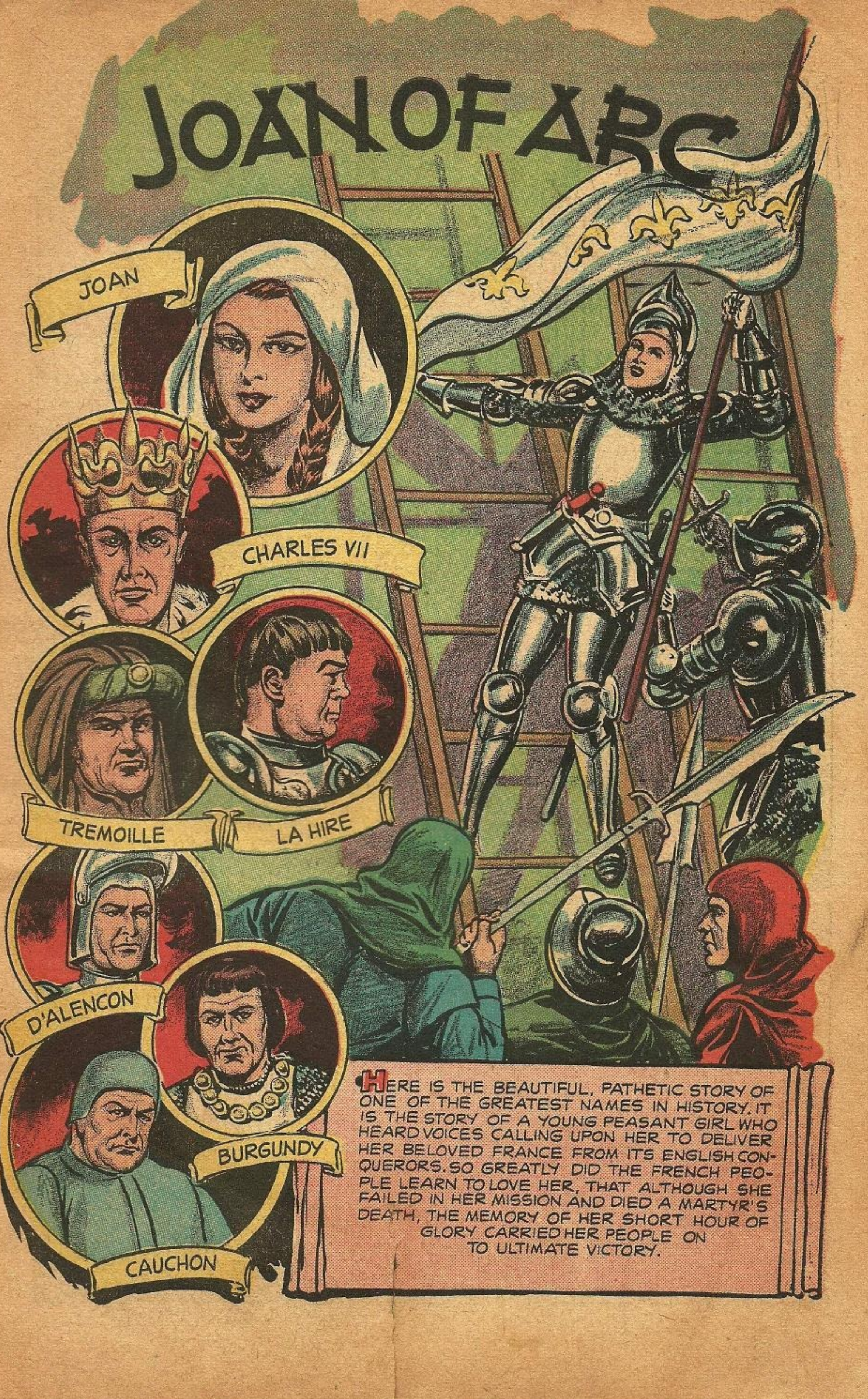
Name _____
(Please print)

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

CLASSICS *Illustrated* . . . DECEMBER, 1950 . . . Number 78 . . . Published monthly. Copyright 1950 by GILBERTON COMPANY, INC., 826 Broadway, New York 3, N. Y. . . . Subscription, $1.50 for 10 issues . . . Entered as second-class matter March 10, 1943. Reentered as second-class matter March 28, 1947, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. HARRY M. ADLER, Managing Editor, MEYER A. KAPLAN, Editorial Assistant. Copyright 1950 in U.S.A. and all foreign countries. All rights reserved including the right to reproduce this publication or portions thereof in any form.
Printed in U.S.A.

JOAN OF ARC



HERE IS THE BEAUTIFUL, PATHETIC STORY OF ONE OF THE GREATEST NAMES IN HISTORY. IT IS THE STORY OF A YOUNG PEASANT GIRL WHO HEARD VOICES CALLING UPON HER TO DELIVER HER BELOVED FRANCE FROM ITS ENGLISH CONQUERORS. SO GREATLY DID THE FRENCH PEOPLE LEARN TO LOVE HER, THAT ALTHOUGH SHE FAILED IN HER MISSION AND DIED A MARTYR'S DEATH, THE MEMORY OF HER SHORT HOUR OF GLORY CARRIED HER PEOPLE ON TO ULTIMATE VICTORY.

IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING, JANUARY 6, 1412, IN THE VILLAGE OF DOMREMY, FRANCE, ALONG THE MEUSE RIVER VALLEY...

JACQUES D'ARC, YOU'RE THE FATHER OF A BEAUTIFUL BABY GIRL.

IT IS GOOD. SHE WILL GROW UP TO BE A COMFORT AND HELP TO HER MOTHER.

ISN'T SHE THE SERIOUS ONE? NEVER HAS A SMILE FOR MAMA OR HER BROTHERS.

PERHAPS SHE KNOWS THERE'S LITTLE TO SMILE ABOUT IN THESE HARD TIMES.

AT AN EARLY AGE, JOAN LEARNED ABOUT HER COUNTRY'S CONDITION...

PAPA, WHY IS MAMA CRYING?

SHE HAS JUST LEARNED THAT HER COUSIN WAS KILLED IN THE WAR.

WHAT IS WAR, PAPA? PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT IT.

WAR IS BAD, MY LITTLE ONE. COME BY THE FIRE AND I'LL TELL YOU.

TO BEGIN! WELL, THE ENGLISH AND WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR 80 YEARS. NEITHER SIDE HAD A DECISIVE VICTORY UNTIL A FEW WEEKS AGO.

"AT AGINCOURT, FRANCE SUFFERED HER WORST DEFEAT IN HISTORY. THE NOBLEST BLOOD OF FRANCE DARKENED OUR OWN SOIL..."

LONG LIVE HENRY OF ENGLAND!

LONG FLY THE FLAG OF ST GEORGE!

"AND NOW, THE BURGUNDIANS ARE JOINING WITH THE ENGLISH TO ATTACK US..."

DUKE OF BURGUNDY, WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU. BUT WHY HAVE YOU COME TO US?

I'D RATHER SEE YOUR HENRY V ON THE FRENCH THRONE. FRANCE'S CHARLES VI IS MAD.

AND NOW I FEAR EVIL DAYS. THE ENGLISH AND THEIR ALLY WILL OVERRUN OUR COUNTRY, LEAVING MURDER AND PILLAGE IN THEIR WAKE.

FIVE YEARS PASSED. THE ENGLISH KEPT WINNING BATTLES, AND GOING DEEPER INTO FRENCH SOIL..

CAN YOU GIVE FOOD TO A WANDERER COME ALL THE WAY FROM PARIS?

MY FATHER IS IN THE FIELD. I'LL TAKE YOU TO HIM.

WHAT NEWS OF FRANCE, STRANGER?

SHE'S BEEN BETRAYED! THE ENGLISH HENRY AND OUR QUEEN ISABEAU HAVE JUST SIGNED A PACT AT TROYES.

HENRY MARRIES OUR PRINCESS CATHERINE. OUR KING, CHARLES VI, RULES UNTIL DEATH. THEN HENRY BECOMES REGENT OF FRANCE UNTIL A CHILD OF HIS IS OLD..

THEN OUR KING'S SON, OUR DAUPHIN,* IS TO LOSE HIS THRONE AND BE CAST ASIDE FOR A SON OF THE ENGLISH BUTCHER OF AGINCOURT!

THE QUEEN TURNS TRAITOR AND THE ENGLISH ARMY ROLLS ON. BUT AS YET, DOMREMY IS SPARED. COME, THERE'S FOOD IN THE KITCHEN.

*ELDEST SON OF FRENCH KING

THROUGH IT ALL, JOAN HAD A NORMAL CHILDHOOD...

JOAN D'ARC WILL WIN AGAIN!

SHE ALWAYS DOES, THAT QUIET ONE!

AND HAD THE NORMAL GIRL'S RESPONSIBILITIES...

HURRY WITH THE SOUP, JOAN. YOUR FATHER AND BROTHERS ARE COMING IN FROM THE FIELDS.

YES, MAMA.

THIS WILL MAKE A FINE DRESS FOR MY LITTLE SISTER.

IN 1422, BOTH HENRY V AND CHARLES VI OF FRANCE DIED, EACH LEAVING A SON WHO WAS TO CLAIM THE THRONE OF FRANCE.

DURING JOAN'S 13TH YEAR, SHE HEARD A VOICE...

JOAN! JOAN D'ARC! I'M ARCHANGEL MICHAEL. MY CHILD, THE TIME WILL SOON COME WHEN A GREAT TASK WILL BE REQUIRED OF YOU. I SHALL SPEAK MORE OF IT LATER.

THE VOICE RETURNED SOME DAYS LATER...

JOAN, FROM NOW ON YOU SHALL HEAR MINE AND OTHER VOICES MANY TIMES. THEY'LL GUIDE YOU IN THE TASK YOU'LL SOME DAY UNDERTAKE.

IN THE TWO YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, THE VOICES OF ST. MICHAEL, ST. MARGARET AND ST. CATHERINE SPOKE TO JOAN MANY TIMES...

I HEAR ST. MARGARET'S VOICE IN THE BELLS.

FINALLY JOAN WAS TOLD WHAT THE VOICES DEMANDED OF HER...

YOU'LL DELIVER FRANCE FROM THE ENGLISH CONQUERORS, AND YOU'LL CROWN OUR DAUPHIN KING.

YOU MUST GET TO THE DAUPHIN. HE WILL MAKE YOU COMMANDER OF HIS ARMIES. DON'T FEAR. WE WILL GUIDE YOU.

I'M SO AFRAID I'M UNEQUAL TO THE TASK.

JOAN TOLD NO ONE OF THE VOICES SHE HAD HEARD...

JOAN HARDLY BOTHERS WITH US ANY MORE.

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE A TROUBLED MIND.

YOU WILL GO TO GOVERNOR BAUDRICOURT AT VAUCOULEURS. ASK HIM FOR HELP TO GET YOU TO THE DAUPHIN.

I CAN'T TELL MAMA. SHE WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND. ONLY UNCLE LAXART MIGHT. I SHALL GO TO HIM.

DON'T OVERSTAY YOUR WELCOME, JOAN. BE BACK IN A FEW DAYS.

DON'T WORRY, MAMA. I SHALL NOT BE AT UNCLE LAXART'S LONG.

AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY, JOAN DIVULGED HER SECRET TO LAXART...

AND SO THE VOICES ADVISE I GO TO VAUCOULEURS TO GET THE GOVERNOR'S AID.

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR, WHAT YOU CALL, VOICES. BUT VAUCOULEURS IS ONLY TWO MILES AWAY, AND SINCE I KNOW THE GOVERNOR SLIGHTLY, LET US BE GONE.

JOAN AND LAXART GOT AN AUDIENCE WITH THE GOVERNOR.

WELL, CHILD, SPEAK.

TO YOU, THE GOVERNOR, I SAY: SEND A MESSAGE TO THE DAUPHIN TO WAIT AND NOT GIVE BATTLE TO THE ENGLISH, FOR HE'LL SOON RECEIVE AID.

THE CHILD IS DEMENTED.

AND WHAT ELSE SHALL I SAY TOTHE DAUPHIN?

THAT HE MAKE ME HIS GENERAL, FOR IT IS CERTAIN THAT I SHALL DRIVE THE ENGLISH FROM FRANCE AND SET THE CROWN UPON HIM.

YOU, LAXART. TAKE HER HOME AND SEE THAT SHE IS WHIPPED. THAT WILL CLEAR HER HEAD OF NONSENSE.

YOU REFUSE ME SOLDIERS NOW. BUT I MUST COME AGAIN AND AGAIN UNTIL I GET YOUR AID. FOR I'M SO COMMANDED.

JOAN BECAME THE LAUGHING STOCK OF DOMREMY...

COMMANDER OF THE ARMY! HA! HA!

SHE'S ON HER WAY TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE DEFENSE OF ORLEANS!

AND AT HOME...

HERE'S YOUR STAFF, GENERAL. THE ENGLISH ARE ATTACKING ORLEANS.

GO, THE CATTLE NEED WATERING. DO YOUR CHORES AND LEAVE WAR TO THE MEN FOLK.

THE YEAR WAS LONG. JOAN TURNED TO THE VOICES FOR COMFORT...

IT'S A NEW YEAR, 1429. PERHAPS NOW THE GOVERNOR WILL LISTEN.

THE ENGLISH ARE STORMING ORLEANS. YOU MUST GO TO VAUCOULEURS AGAIN. SPEAK TO THE GOVERNOR.

THE FAITHFUL LAXART ONCE MORE ACCOMPANIED HER...

AND I'LL TELL HIM WHAT THE GREAT ASTROLOGER, MERLIN, SAID 800 YEARS AGO.

MERLIN SAID THAT SOMEDAY FRANCE WOULD BE LOST BY A WOMAN AND RESTORED BY A WOMAN.

ONCE MORE IN THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE...

AND THE WOMAN WHO LOST FRANCE IS OUR BASE QUEEN ISABEAU? YES, FOR IT IS SHE WHO HANDED OUR COUNTRY TO THE KING OF ENGLAND.

YES, AND THROUGH GOD'S GRACE, I SHALL BE THE WOMAN TO RESTORE FRANCE.

YOU SPEAK SO EARNESTLY, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF YOU BE A WITCH OR NOT. MY LEARNED MEN MUST QUESTION YOU.

YOU WASTE PRECIOUS TIME. DON'T YOU KNOW THAT ON THIS DAY OUR FORCES HAVE LOST A GREAT BATTLE NEAR ORLEANS?

TODAY? BUT HOW COULD YOU KNOW THE NEWS SO QUICKLY? IT'D TAKE DAYS.

MY VOICES HAVE TOLD ME.

THE GOVERNOR WAS IMPRESSED BY JOAN'S CLAIM OF CLAIRVOYANCE...*

IF THIS NEWS BE TRUE, I'LL SEND YOU TO YOUR DAUPHIN.

* ABILITY TO FORETELL FUTURE EVENTS

THE NEWS OF THE DEFEAT WAS CONFIRMED, AND SO, ON FEB. 23, 1429...

GODSPEED, AND MAY YOUR JOURNEY END IN SUCCESS. I GIVE YOU MY SWORD AND PRAY YOU ADD TO ITS GLORIOUS HISTORY.

YOU ARE KIND, SIRE. FRANCE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU.

I'VE GIVEN YOU AN ESCORT OF BRAVE AND NOBLE MEN. YOU MUST TRAVEL THROUGH ENEMY TERRITORY TILL YOU COME TO CHINON WHERE HIDES YOUR CRAVEN DAUPHIN.

AND SO BEGAN JOAN OF ARC'S ATTEMPTED LIBERATION OF FRANCE...

HE MAY BE SLOW IN DECISION, SIRE, BUT HE'S NOT CRAVEN. AND HE SHALL BE CROWNED OUR KING OF FRANCE.

DANGER LURKED THE WHOLE DISTANCE TO CHINON...

THAT'S AN ENEMY CAMP. WE MUST COVER UP OUR HORSES' HOOVES WITH RAGS TO DEADEN NOISE.

NOTHING MUST INTERFERE WITH MY GETTING TO THE DAUPHIN.

THE MARNE WAS FLOODED AT MANY PLACES...

BANDS OF HIGHWAYMEN ROAMED THE ROAD...

THE MAID OF DOMREMY IS TO PASS HERE. IF WE CAPTURE HER, WE CAN GET A BIG PRICE FOR HER FROM THE ENGLISH.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES LOOKING FOR THE MAID. THERE ARE OTHERS.

BUT WE SHALL CAPTURE HER BEFORE ANY OTHERS AND GET THE REWARD. WE KNOW SHE'S SOMEWHERE NEARBY. ADIEU.

'TIS FORTUNATE YOU WERE DISGUISED, MY GENERAL. THEY THINK US A BAND OF BURGUNDIANS IN SEARCH OF THE MAID.

FEAR NOT. THE LORD WILL GUIDE US SAFELY TO THE DAUPHIN.

FROM THAT TIME ON, JOAN'S ESCORTS ALWAYS RODE IN BATTLE FORMATION...

GUARD THE MAID WELL. THERE ARE ENEMIES AHEAD. TO BATTLE, MEN!

BOLDLY! FIGHT BOLDLY! FOR YOUR LOVE OF THE DAUPHIN!

WELL DONE! YOU MEN SHALL STAND WELL IN FRONT IN MY FRENCH ARMY.

FINALLY THE GROUP REACHED CHINON. THE NEWS OF JOAN'S COMING HAD TRAVELLED BEFORE HER...

WELCOME THE MAID!

LONG LIFE TO THE MAID!

BUT THERE WERE SEVERAL OF THE DAUPHIN'S COUNCILORS WHO BECAME JEALOUS OF JOAN'S POPULARITY. AFRAID OF LOSING THEIR POWER OVER THE WEAK KING, THEY BLOCKED HER PATH...

BUT YOUR HIGHNESS IT IS ADVISABLE NOT TO BE HASTY IN GRANTING THIS MAID AN INTERVIEW. ONE MUST KNOW IT WASN'T THE DEVIL WHO SENT HER.

PATIENTLY, JOAN CONTINUED TO SEND HER KNIGHTS TO GET HER AN AUDIENCE WITH THE DAUPHIN...

THE QUEEN MOTHER ALSO BECAME AN ENEMY OF JOAN...

THE WORLD KNOWS YOUR FATHER WAS MAD. BUT ARE YOU MAD, TOO, TO HARKEN TO THE WORDS OF AN UNLETTERED PEASANT GIRL?

BUT THE PEOPLE HAVE FOUND HOPE IN HER, MOTHER.

. THE MAID BEGS THE HONOR TO BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK TO YOUR HIGHNESS.

PERHAPS ANON. BUT NOT THIS DAY, FOR NOW I GO TO HUNT PHEASANTS.

THE DAUPHIN BIDED HIS TIME, BUT JOAN PRESSED HIM RELENTLESSLY...

GO TELL HIM I SHALL GIVE HIM THE ANSWER TO THE SECRET QUESTION THAT TORMENTS HIS HEART.

HAVE HER COME. FOR IF SHE KNOWS MY SECRET QUESTION, THEN SHE KNOWS THE HONEST ANSWER.

THE NEXT STEP, AN AUDIENCE WITH THE DAUPHIN...

WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT WOULD YOU?

I'M CALLED JOAN THE MAID, SENT TO SAY THE LORD WILLS YOU BE CROWNED KING. HE WILLS ALSO THAT YOU GIVE ME SOLDIERS THAT I MAY RAISE THE SIEGE OF ORLEANS.

THE SLUGGISH DAUPHIN SEEMED LOST IN THOUGHT...

THE CHILD SPEAKS WITH SUCH SINCERITY. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SHE'S TRULY GIFTED? I MUST FIND OUT.

THE DAUPHIN ORDERED EVERY ONE, SAVE JOAN, AWAY FROM THE THRONE..

BEGONE, ALL OF YOU. I MUST SREAK SECRETLY TO THE MAID. RISE, CHILD AND COME HERE.

AND NOW, CHILD, MY SECRET QUESTION?

YOU ARE TROUBLED AS TO WHETHER YOU ARE THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE FRENCH THRONE.

YES, THOU ART LAWFUL HEIR TO THE THRONE. GOD HAS SPOKEN IT.

JOAN HAD PIERCED THE DAUPHIN'S SECRET AND NOW HE BELIEVED IN HER. BUT HIS CHIEF COUNCILOR, TREMOILLE, WAS WARY...

I HAVE MY SECRET PACT WITH THE ENGLISH. FOR THE PRESENT, IT MUST STAY SECRET. MEANWHILE, I'LL TRY TO STOP THE MAID'S PROGRESS.

SO SHE REVEALED A SECRET KNOWN TO YOU AND GOD. BUT PERHAPS SHE IS THE INSTRUMENT OF THE DEVIL.

MEANWHILE, NOBLES OF THE HIGHEST RANK RALLIED TO JOAN'S SIDE...

I, THE DUKE OF ALENCON, HUMBLY OFFER MY SERVICES TO YOUR CAUSE.

RISE, SIR. I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER WITH THANKFULNESS.

TREMOILLE HAD JOAN SUBJECTED TO STERN QUESTIONING...

IF YOU CAN FREE FRANCE BY VOICES, WHY DO YOU NEED SOLDIERS?

THE LORD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES.

AFTER WEEKS OF DISCUSSION, THE VERDICT WAS REACHED...

AND WHAT IS YOUR VERDICT?

THAT THE MAID IS A GOOD CHRISTIAN AND THE KING (DAUPHIN) MAY AND OUGHT TO ACCEPT THE HELP SHE OFFERS.

THE QUEEN AND TREMOILLE WERE DISMAYED BY THE VERDICT...

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS MAID COULD DRIVE OUT THE ENGLISH?

FEAR NOT. FRANCE IS IN A HOPELESS CONDITION WITH SO MANY PARTIES FIGHTING EACH OTHER.

AND NOW THE DAUPHIN WAS FORCED TO CEDE TO JOAN...

...THAT CHARLES, ROI, HAS CONFERRED UPON THE MAID THE TITLE AND DIGNITY OF GENERAL-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMIES OF FRANCE. FOR HER CHIEF OF STAFF, HIS HIGHNESS HAS APPOINTED A PRINCE OF ROYAL BLOOD, HIS GRACE, THE DUKE OF ALENCON.

RECRUITING HEADQUARTERS WERE SET UP FOR JOAN'S ARMY AND SOON RECRUITS WERE POURING IN...

I CAME ONE HUNDRED MILES TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE MAID.

GOOD SPIRIT!

MONEY WAS RAISED FOR A SUIT OF ARMOR FOR JOAN...

HAVING THEN RECEIVED HER SWORD, WHICH WAS FOUND NEAR THE ALTAR OF THE CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE AT FIERBOIS...

THE VOICES TOLD ME I WOULD FIND THIS SWORD. IT WILL LEAD ME TO VICTORY.

JOAN THEN SENT A LETTER TO THE ENGLISH CONQUEROR...

TO YOU I SAY: GIVE BACK ALL YOU AND YOUR SOLDIERS HAVE TAKEN AND LEAVE FRANCE.

RECEIVING NO ANSWER, JOAN SET OUT TO RELIEVE THE SIEGE OF ORLEANS...

AT ORLEANS, THE ENGLISH RECEIVED THE WARNING...

WE MUST SUBMIT OR THE YOUNG WITCH WILL CAST A SPELL ON US!

THE FRENCH MAKE SOLDIERS OF THEIR WOMEN! HA-HA!

JOAN HELD A COUNCIL OF WAR WITH HER TWO TOP GENERALS, THE DUKE OF ALENCON AND LA HIRE, A TOUGH VETERAN, FRONT LINE FIGHTER...

I SUGGEST WE TRAVEL ALONG THE OPPOSITE BANK OF THE RIVER LOIRE. WE CAN THEN STAND ON THE OTHER SIDE AND STARVE OUT THE ENGLISH.

NO, NO! THE VOICES HAVE TOLD ME THAT A DIRECT ASSAULT WILL BE VICTORIOUS. WE NEED NOT WAIT.

THE ENGLISH HAVE BUILT A LINE OF FORTS AROUND ORLEANS, CLOSING ALL GATES BUT ONE. OUR ARMY WOULD BE WIPED OUT TRYING TO FIGHT PAST THESE FORTS.

I AM THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. WE WILL CHARGE THE CITY, GOING PAST THE FORTS.

BUT THE OLD GENERAL LA HIRE DECEIVED JOAN. THROUGH THE DARKNESS HE LED THE ARMY TO THE OPPOSITE BANK...

UNDAUNTED, JOAN PREPARED TO LIFT THE SIEGE...

WE WILL LAND BELOW THE CITY AND BELOW THE FORT ST. LOUP WHICH THE ENGLISH HOLD.

JOAN DEPLOYED SOME MEN TO SKIRMISH WITH THE FORT GUARDS, WHILE THE MAIN BULK OF HER ARMY WENT UPSTREAM...

THE RUSE WORKED...

...AND SOON FRENCH SOLDIERS AND SUPPLIES WERE ENTERING ORLEANS...

THE CITY WAS SAVED FROM STARVATION. A WEEK LATER, 5000 NEW SOLDIERS ARRIVED TO STRENGTHEN JOAN'S ARMY...

HEARING THAT THE ENGLISH WERE TO RECEIVE REINFORCEMENTS, THE FRENCH ATTACKED FORT ST. LOUP...

THE ENGLISH WERE WINNING WHEN...

ALLONS! ATTACK!

THE SIGHT OF JOAN, IN THE THICK OF BATTLE, INSPIRED THE FRENCH SOLDIERS...

LONG LIVE THE MAID!

THERE WAS BITTER FIGHTING INSIDE THE FORT, BUT INSPIRED BY JOAN, THE FRENCH CARRIED THE DAY...

FORT ST. LOUP WAS DESTROYED.

THIS IS THE FIRST VICTORY WE HAVE TASTED IN YEARS.

IT IS BUT THE BEGINNING. NOW BACK TO ORLEANS.

JOAN, LA HIRE AND ALENCON DECIDED THAT THEIR NEXT OBJECTIVE WOULD BE LES TOURELLES. IT WAS THE STRONGEST LINK IN THE CHAIN OF ENGLISH FORTS GUARDING THE ROAD TO ORLEANS...

ORDER OUR MEN OUT. WE'LL SOON DISPERSE THIS PEASANT-LED ARMY.

ON THE 16TH OF MAY, THE FRENCH MARCHED TO THE FORT...

THE ENGLISH, SEEING THE FRENCH ARMY COMING TOWARD THEM, RUSHED OUT OF THE FORT TO MEET JOAN'S TROOPS...

THE TWO ARMIES STOOD FACE TO FACE, BUT ONLY THE ENGLISH GAVE THE ORDER TO RETREAT.

THE ENGLISH FLED TO THE FORT, WHERE THEY RALLIED AND DROVE BACK THE FRENCH...

THAT FRENCH MAID IS SATAN'S DAUGHTER!

THE TIDE OF BATTLE WAS TURNING, BUT...

SOLDIERS OF FRANCE, FOLLOW ME!

AN ENGLISH ARCHER ON THE WALL, FIRING AN ARBALEST, SPOTTED THE MAID...

...AND RELEASED A STEEL ARROW...

OUR LEADER HAS FALLEN!

SOLDIERS OF FRANCE! AVENGE THE MAID! CHARGE!

THE RETREATING SOLDIERS RALLIED TO GENERAL LA HIRE...

LIKE A PACK OF JUNGLE TIGERS, THE ANGERED FRENCH ATTACKED THE FORT. AFTER BRUTAL HAND TO HAND COMBAT, THE ENGLISH SURRENDERED...

THAT NIGHT, JOAN'S WOUND, FORTUNATELY NOT SERIOUS, WAS ATTENDED TO..

AH, MY BRAVE ONE! IT MUST HURT YOU SO!

NO, NO. IT IS NOTHING.

THE NEXT MORNING, JOAN WAS GIVEN A HEROINE'S WELCOME AT ORLEANS...

THE DAUPHIN CAME OUT OF HIDING AND WENT TO TOURS, NOW IN FRENCH HANDS, WHERE HE ORDERED JOAN TO MEET HIM...

WELL DONE, MAID. AND NOW WHAT REWARD SEEK YE?

ONLY THIS, YOUR MAJESTY. THAT YOU PROCEED AT ONCE TO RHEIMS AND BE CROWNED. MY ARMY WILL MARCH WITH YOU.

BUT THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE. THE ROAD TO RHEIMS LIES THROUGH STRONGLY HELD ENGLISH TERRITORY. IS THAT NOT SO, TREMOILLE?

CAUTION IS THE WORD. THINK OF ENGLISH FORTS ALONG THE LOIRE. THINK OF THOSE BETWEEN US AND RHEIMS.

BUT IF WE WAIT ANY LONGER, THE ENEMY WILL HAVE TIME TO REINFORCE. MY VOICES TELL ME TO STRIKE NOW.

THE DAUPHIN TOOK ALMOST A MONTH TO MAKE UP HIS MIND, AND THEN DECIDED AGAINST PERSONALLY GOING TO RHEIMS. HE WOULD WAIT UNTIL THE PATH HAD BEEN CLEARED...

THE MAID HAS BEEN ENNOBLED. SHE IS NOW LADY DU LIS.

THE COWARDLY KING HAS GIVEN HER A TITLE AND SENT HER OFF TO WIN HIM HIS CROWN.

JOAN WENT BACK TO ORLEANS, WITH 800 FIGHTING MEN, ALL VETERANS, AS THE CORE OF HER ARMY...

I SAY OUR FIRST OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE THE ENGLISH FORT AT JARGEAU. DO YOU AGREE?

YES, GENERAL. IT IS WELL-PROTECTED, BUT WE'LL TAKE IT.

REACHING THE FORTIFIED TOWN, JOAN SENT A CHARGE AGAINST THE ENEMY, BUT THE FRENCH WERE REPULSED AND RETREATED TO THEIR OWN LINE...

DARKNESS FELL AND JOAN'S ARMY CAMPED FOR THE NIGHT...

ON THE MORNING, JOAN ARRANGED THE CANNON...

ON THAT LITTLE HILL. IT WILL GIVE THE SHOT A HIGHER RANGE.

SHE PLACED HER ARCHERS AT THE MOST FAVORABLE POSITIONS..

HERE, TURN A LITTLE TO THE LEFT. THAT WAY, THE STRONG WIND'LL BE DIRECTLY BEHIND YOU.

AT EIGHT O'CLOCK, THE BATTLE BEGAN..

THE ENEMY RETURNED THE ARTILLERY FIRE...

SOON THE ENGLISH-HELD FORT CRUMPLED FROM THE WITHERING CANNON FIRE...

THE MAID HAD WON ANOTHER VICTORY. THE ROAD TO RHEIMS WAS BEGINNING TO OPEN...

THE FRENCH CAPTURED THE TOWNS OF MEUNG AND BEAUGENCY AND, ON JUNE 18, ENGAGED THE ENGLISH AT PATAY. JOAN HAD TROOPS RIDE TO THE REAR OF THE ENGLISH BATTLE CORPS WHILE HER MAIN BODY OF MEN ADVANCED ALONG THE ROAD. THE ENGLISH CORPS SEEING FRENCH TROOPS ALONG THE ROAD, RUSHED TO JOIN THE ADVANCE GUARD. THEY, SEEING THEIR OWN MEN RUNNING HARD, BELIEVED THEY WERE RUNNING AWAY FROM JOAN'S MAIN ARMY. THEY BECAME PANICKY AND DEMORALIZED. THE FRENCH MASSACRED THEM.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 91 YEARS OF WAR, THE FRENCH HAD SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT...

THE FRENCH SLAUGHTER AT AGINCOURT HAS BEEN AVENGED ON THE FIELDS OF PATAY!

THE PEOPLE WENT WILD WITH JOY...

JOAN'S VOICES NOW TOLD HER IT WAS TIME FOR THE DAUPHIN TO GO TO RHEIMS TO BE CROWNED.

HAVE NO FEAR. YOU SHALL GUIDE THE DAUPHIN SAFELY INTO RHEIMS!

THE DAUPHIN WASN'T EAGER TO GO...

BUT THE ROAD TO RHEIMS IS STILL MARKED WITH ENGLISH-HELD FORTS.

THERE WILL BE LITTLE RESISTANCE. WE WON'T EVEN TAKE ARTILLERY.

THE DAUPHIN, AFRAID BUT CONVINCED, DECIDED TO TAKE THE RISK...

ALL ENGLISH AND BURGUNDIAN-HELD TOWNS ALONG THE ROAD SURRENDERED...

...UNTIL THE FRENCH ARMY REACHED THE STRONGLY FORTIFIED TOWN OF TROYES...

A MESSAGE FOR YOU.

SATAN'S WITCH IS MAD IF SHE THINKS WE SURRENDER. COME, BATTLE; AND AFTER WE WIN, WE'LL HANG YOU.

I THINK IT WISEST TO RETREAT TO ORLEANS.

BUT TROYES WAS TAKEN AFTER A BITTER STRUGGLE. AFTER THAT, CHALON SURRENDERED, AND ON JULY 16, 1429, THE CATHEDRAL TOWERS OF RHEIMS WERE SIGHTED...

TOMORROW, MY WORK IS FINISHED.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE DAUPHIN WAS CROWNED AND PROCLAIMED KING CHARLES VII.

I HAVE DONE THE TASK WHICH MY VOICES HAVE COMMANDED ME TO DO. NOW I WOULD LIKE TO BE WITH MY FAMILY IN DOMREMY.

THE KING, HOWEVER, INSISTED JOAN REMAIN COMMANDER OF THE ARMY. AT RHEIMS, HE CALLED A COUNCIL OF WAR...

MY VOICES TELL ME THAT IF WE'RE TO COMPLETELY DRIVE THE ENGLISH OUT OF FRANCE, WE MUST ATTACK PARIS IMMEDIATELY.

BUT MY DEAR CHILD, WE ARE ALL FATIGUED FROM THE LONG MARCH TO RHEIMS. WE MUST HAVE SOME PARTIES AND BALLS TO LIVEN OUR SPIRITS.

TREMOILLE, MEANWHILE, WAS GIVING HIS TREACHEROUS ADVICE TO THE NEWLY-CROWNED KING...

THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY HAS ASKED FOR A TEMPORARY TRUCE. HE PROMISES TO DELIVER PARIS TO YOU WITHIN A FORTNIGHT.

DELAY ANOTHER FORTNIGHT! WHEN YOU KNOW THAT EVERY DAY THE ENGLISH ARE BRINGING IN MORE TROOPS TO RE-INFORCE PARIS?

THE MAID IS RIGHT. WE NOT ONLY HAVE TO FIGHT THE ENGLISH AND THE BURGUNDIANS, BUT ALSO OUR OWN TRAITORS!

VERY WELL, I GIVE IN TO THE MAID AND HER VISIONS. PROCEED TO PARIS.

HOWEVER, THE CRAFTY DUKE OF BURGUNDY TRAPPED THE FRENCH KING INTO TWO TRUCES. FIRST, HE WAS NOT TO ATTACK ANY TOWN ABOVE THE SEINE, AND SECOND, TO REFUSE THE SURRENDER OF ANY TOWN UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS...

GENERAL BEDFORD, YOU REALIZE THE AID I HAVE GIVEN YOU?

I APPRECIATE IT. IN REWARD, I NOW APPOINT YOU GOVERNOR OF PARIS.

ANOTHER LOSS TO JOAN WAS THAT GENERAL LA HIRE HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE BURGUNDY DISTRICT. ALSO, JOAN'S VOICES, TELLING HER TO ATTACK PARIS, BECAME CONFUSING.

HOWEVER, ON SEPT. 8, AGAINST THE KING'S WISHES, JOAN DECIDED TO ATTACK PARIS...

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I DO NOT FEEL CONFIDENT.

I WISH THE OLD FOX, LA HIRE, WERE HERE.

AS A COVER FOR JOAN'S MEN, WHO INTENDED TO STORM THE GATE, ALENCON HAD HIS ARTILLERY RELEASE A BARRAGE...

THEN JOAN'S TROOPS CHARGED AGAINST THE OUTSIDE EARTHWORKS..

TAKING THE OUTER DEFENSES, THEY CAME TO A MOAT. JOAN ORDERED THE MOAT FILLED WITH WOOD AT THE NARROWEST PART..

THE SPEAR DOESN'T TOUCH BOTTOM. THE MOAT CAN'T BE WADED.

JOAN OF ARC

THE FRENCH AT THE MOAT WERE EXPOSED TO THE ENGLISH FIRE...

NO, NO, ALENCON. WE MUST CONTINUE FIGHTING. PARIS WILL STILL BE TAKEN.

NOT TONIGHT. IT'S GETTING DARK. AND YOUR WOUNDS NEED TENDING.

YOU'LL GO TO OUR CAMP AT LA CHAPELLE FOR THE NIGHT.

PARIS COULD BE TAKEN.

NEXT MORNING, TREMOILLE PERSUADED THE KING TO GIVE UP THE BATTLE...

You will cease fighting at once and return to St. Dennis.

Charles VII

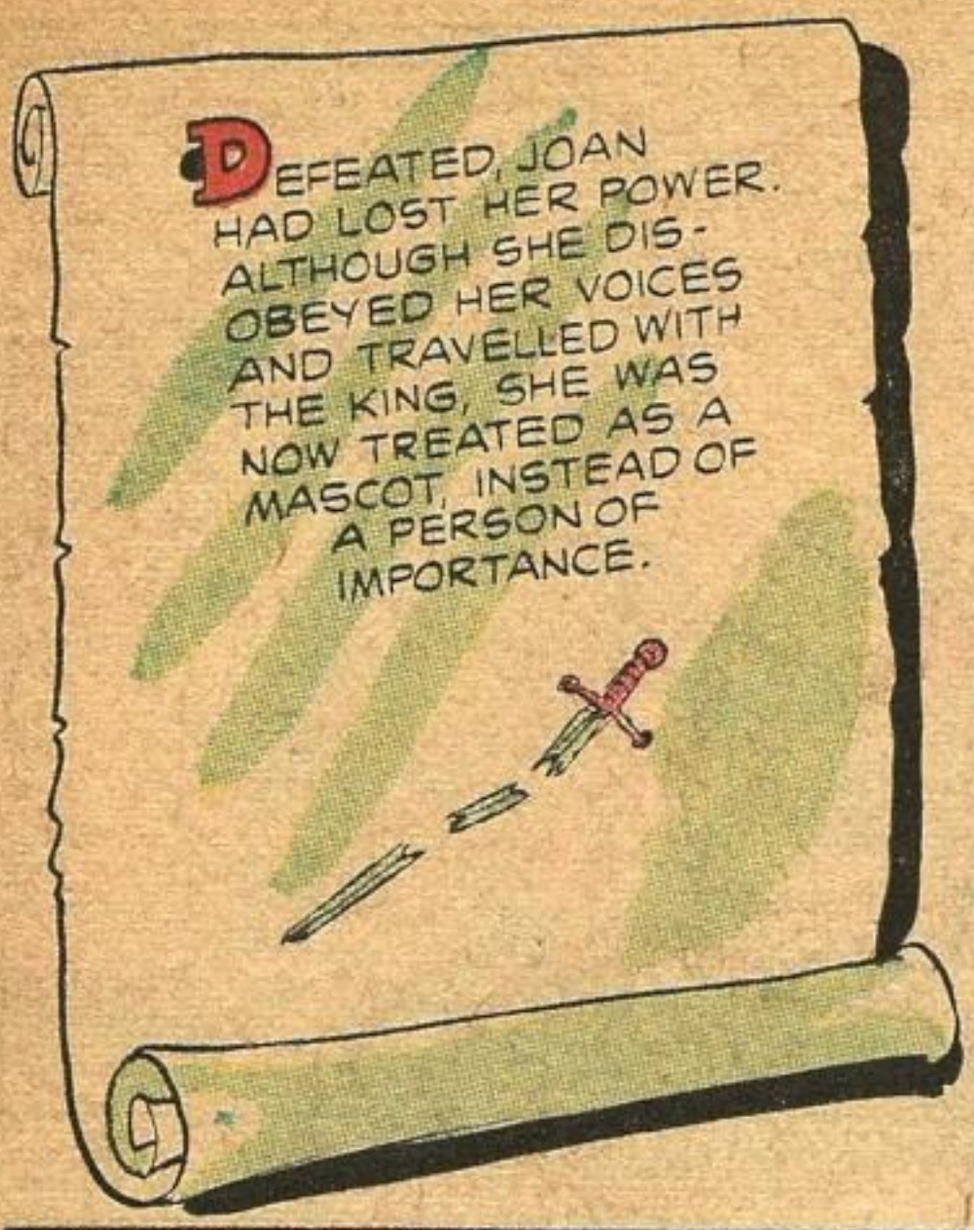
AT ST. DENNIS, THE KING TOOK OVER THE COMMAND OF THE ARMY HIMSELF..

WE WILL BREAK CAMP AND STOP FIGHTING. I SOON EXPECT TO SIGN A PERMANENT PEACE WITH BURGUNDY.

MY VOICES TELL ME TO STAY HERE.

SIRE, I RESIGN MY COMMISSION. I CAN NOT STAND WAVERING.

DEFEATED, JOAN HAD LOST HER POWER. ALTHOUGH SHE DISOBEYED HER VOICES AND TRAVELLED WITH THE KING, SHE WAS NOW TREATED AS A MASCOT, INSTEAD OF A PERSON OF IMPORTANCE.

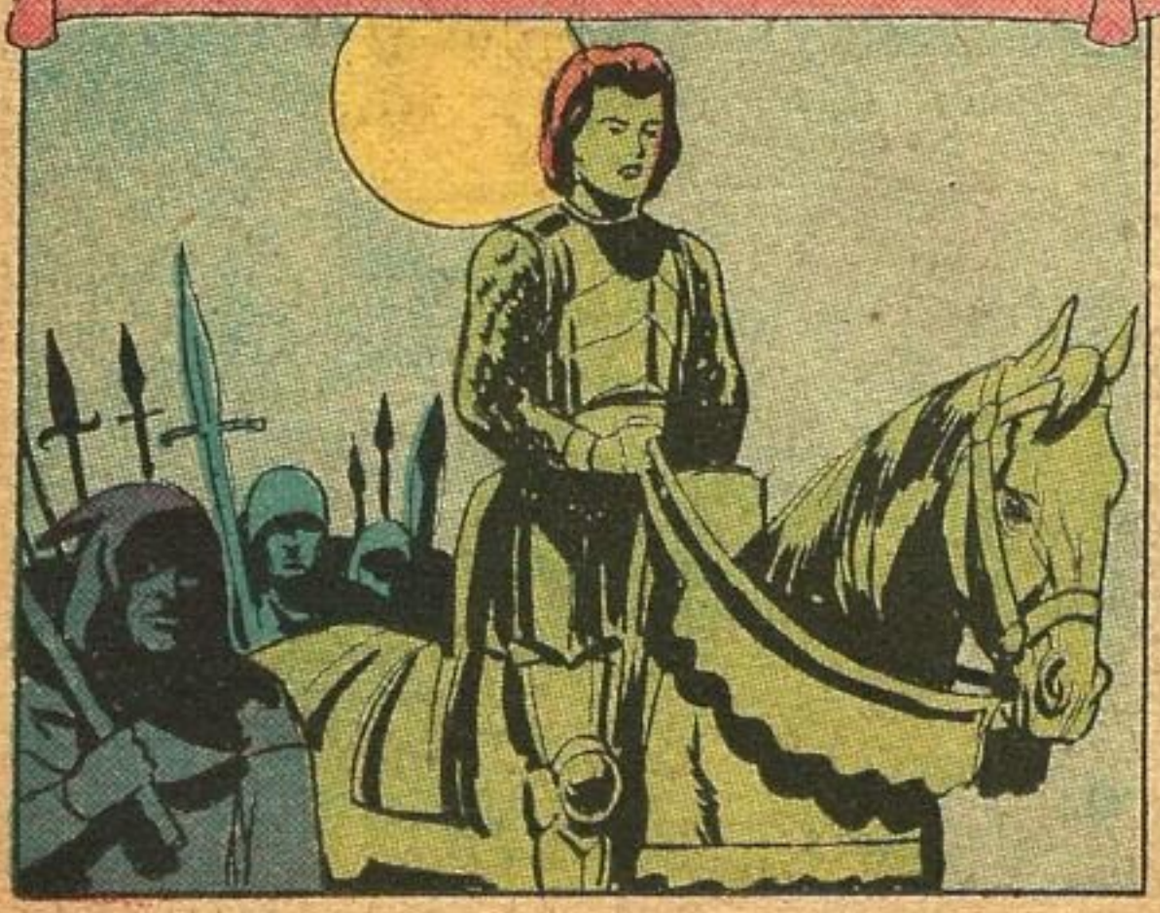


WHY NOT SEND THE MAID BACK TO HER COWS AND SHEEP?

NO, WE MAY USE HER AGAIN IF BURGUNDY ATTEMPTS FOUL PLAY. AND BESIDES, MY LADIES LIKE HER AT COURT.

HE DANCES WHILE THE ENGLISH RAVAGE HIS LAND!

AS THE YEAR PASSED, JOAN JOINED BANDS OF GUERRILLAS, BUT HER SORTIES AGAINST THE ENGLISH AND BURGUNDIANS WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL.



HER PRESTIGE WAS GONE...

THE VOICES DON'T COME ANY MORE TO GUIDE ME.

SHE'S HARD LUCK, I SAY, AND WE HAD BEST DESERT HER.

QUITTING THE KING, IN 1430, JOAN JOINED FORCES WITH BAREZTA, LEADER OF A SMALL FORCE OF LOYAL FRENCHMEN...

THE KING IS A DUPE. TREMOILLE AND HIS FRIENDS RULE FRANCE.

BUT WE STILL FIGHT FOR THE TRUE FRANCE, EH?

AT LAST, HER VOICES CAME BACK TO JOAN..

JOAN, YOU WILL BE CAPTURED SOON. BUT HAVE NO FEAR.

THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY TURNED TRAITOR AGAIN AND CAST HIS LOT WITH THE ENGLISH. TOGETHER, THEY CONQUERED FRENCH TOWNS, AND THEN DECIDED TO ATTACK COMPIEGNE, GATEWAY TO ALL FRENCH-HELD TERRITORY...

JOAN AND BAREZTA DECIDED TO GO TO THE AID OF COMPIEGNE...

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM FLAVY, CAPTAIN OF COMPIEGNE, THAT HIS TROOPS WILL AID US.

GOOD. WE WILL DEPLOY HIS TROOPS AT THE BRIDGE NEAR VENETTE, WHERE THE ENGLISH ARE.

THAT IS SO. WE WILL ATTACK THE CENTER FORT, MARGUY, HELD BY BURGUNDY. IT IS THE KEY TO COMPIEGNE.

THEY OUTNUMBER US MIGHTILY. BUT WE FIGHT FOR FRANCE.

JOAN'S ATTACK AGAINST THE BURGUNDIANS FAILED...

TAKE SAFETY, MAID!

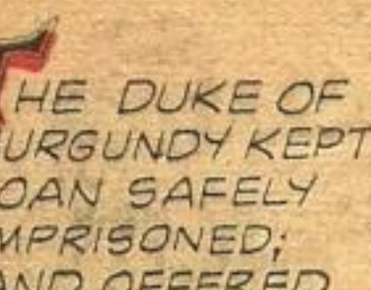
RETREAT! TO OUR FORT AT COM-PIEGNE!

SOME BURGUNDIANS SAW THE DEFENSELESS JOAN...

AH, WHAT A PRIZE FOR THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY.

KING CHARLES WILL PAY A BIG RANSOM FOR HER.

THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY KEPT JOAN SAFELY IMPRISONED; AND OFFERED HER FOR RANSOM TO BOTH THE FRENCH AND THE ENGLISH...



SHE MUST BE WELL FED AND CARED FOR. SHE WILL BRING A GREAT RANSOM.

THE ENGLISH, REALIZING THE SPIRITUAL POWER JOAN HELD OVER THE COMMON PEOPLE OF FRANCE, TRIED TO GET THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY TO TURN HER OVER TO THEM FOR TRIAL...

ENGLAND HAS MADE AN OFFER FOR YOUR RANSOM. BUT I AM A FRENCHMAN AT HEART, AND WOULD RATHER CHARLES VII RANSOM YOU.

YOU'RE WAITING FOR A HIGHER PRICE FROM THE FRENCH. FEAR NOT. CHARLES WILL PAY YOU HANDSOMELY FOR MY FREEDOM.

BUT AT THE PALACE...

SIRE, DON'T RANSOM THE MAID, FOR SHE MAY SOMEDAY BECOME SO POWERFUL THAT SHE MAY OVERTHROW YOU.

IT IS TRUE THE PEASANTS DO HOLD HER HIGHLY.

MEANWHILE, JOAN HEARD THAT COMPIEGNE WAS ABOUT TO BE CAPTURED...

THE BURGUNDIANS HAVE THREATENED TO MASSACRE ALL THE INHABITANTS. I MUST GO TO THE CITY'S AID!

AFTER FORCING HER SLIM BODY THROUGH THE BARS, SHE LEAPED TO THE GROUND...

PRAY GOD I BE SPARED!

BUT HER DESPERATE BID FOR FREEDOM FAILED. TWO GUARDS SAW HER JUMP AND RAN TO WHERE SHE LAY UNCONSCIOUS BUT UNHURT...

SHE IS ONLY STUNNED!

A SIXTY FOOT JUMP! THAT IS A MIRACLE!

THE FRENCH REPULSED BURGUNDY AT COMPIEGNE. THE DUKE NEEDED MONEY NOW, AND ACCEPTED THE 10,000 GOLD LIVRES THAT THE ENGLISH OFFERED FOR JOAN. SHE WAS TURNED OVER TO THE FRENCH BISHOP PIERRE CAUCHON, WHO HAD COME WITH THE ENGLISH MONEY...

JOAN WAS TAKEN TO ROUEN TO STAND TRIAL FOR WITCHCRAFT...

THE ORDER IS TO KEEP HER HEAVILY CHAINED AT ALL TIMES. THE FRENCH MAY TRY TO RESCUE HER.

HA! EVEN HER WITCHCRAFT CAN'T BREAK THOSE CHAINS.

PIERRE CAUCHON, WHOM THE ENGLISH PROMISED PROMOTION IF HE WERE SUCCESSFUL, WAS TO CONDUCT THE TRIAL AGAINST JOAN...

FOR JUDGES, I MUST GET MEN KNOWN TO FAVOR ENGLAND.

ON FEBRUARY 21, JOAN WENT TO TRIAL CHARGED WITH HERESY, BEFORE FIFTY JUDGES...

YOUR NAME?

THROUGHOUT FRANCE, I AM JOAN THE MAID. AT DOMREMY, I WAS NAMED JOAN D'ARC!

TELL US ABOUT THOSE INTERESTING VOICES AND VISIONS OF YOURS. IT MUST BE WONDERFUL TO BE SO GIFTED.

THEY HAVE FORBIDDEN ME TO TELL OF THEM TO ANYONE BUT THE KING.

IF YOU DON'T TELL OF THEM, IT WILL BE BAD FOR YOU.

WERE YOU TO CUT OFF MY HEAD, I STILL WOULDN'T TELL.

BY MARCH 28, JOAN HAD GONE THROUGH TWO TRIALS. NO MATTER HOW MUCH CAUCHON TRIED, HE COULD NOT PROVE JOAN GUILTY OF ANY CRIME. THE COURT FAILED TO REACH A DECISION.

BUT THE ENGLISH WANTED RESULTS. THEY GOT AFTER BISHOP CAUCHON...

IF YOU DON'T HAVE HER PUT TO DEATH, ENGLAND WILL HAVE THE TRIAL TAKEN AWAY FROM THE CHURCH!

FEAR NOT. WE'LL CONVICT HER AT THIS THIRD TRIAL.

ON MARCH 29, JOAN WAS TAKEN DEATHLY ILL AFTER EATING A PORTION OF BADLY PREPARED FISH. TO SAVE HER LIFE, ENGLAND RUSHED ITS GREATEST PHYSICIANS TO HER BEDSIDE.

DO YOUR UTMOST TO SAVE THE MAID. WE DO NOT WANT HER TO DIE EXCEPT BY THE STAKE.

YES, EARL WARWICK!

FOR TWO WEEKS, JOAN LAY DYING, BUT SHE RECOVERED AND AGAIN WENT ON TRIAL...

WHY DO YOU WEAR MEN'S CLOTHES? WAS IT ON SATAN'S ADVICE?

BECAUSE MY VOICES COMMANDED ME TO.

ADMIT YOUR GUILT, OR THE CHURCH WILL ABANDON YOU LIKE A PAGAN!

A CHRISTIAN I WAS BORN, A CHRISTIAN I WILL DIE.

THE CHARGES AGAINST JOAN WERE READ. JOAN DENIED GUILT AND CAUCHON, DEFEATED, RESORTED TO THREATS...

WE'LL SHOW HER THE RACK. PERHAPS THAT WILL FRIGHTEN HER INTO CONFESSION.

FEAR NOT, JOAN, FOR YOU HAVE SALVATION.

YOU'VE SEEN THE RACK AND ITS CAPABLE OPERATORS. NOW CONFESS.

EVEN IF YOU TEAR MY LIMBS APART, I'VE NAUGHT TO CONFESS.

ON THE 19TH OF MAY, JOAN STOOD BEFORE THE COURT. SHE WAS TOLD TO RENOUNCE HER ERRORS AND SURRENDER AND SAVE HER LIFE. JOAN ANSWERED THAT SHE COULD ONLY REPEAT WHAT SHE HAD ALREADY SAID.

NEXT DAY...

YOU HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF HERESY, SORCERY, AND ALL OTHER CRIMES CONTAINED IN THE TWELVE ARTICLES. DO YOU WISH TO CONFESS?

CONFESS! CONFESS!

I CANNOT CONFESS, FOR I AM INNOCENT.

NOW, JOAN WAS TAKEN TO THE STAKE, WHERE IF SHE DID NOT CONFESS AND ABJURE, SHE WAS TO BE BURNED...

ABJURE AND SIGN THIS CONFESSION, OR BURN AT THE STAKE!

ABJURE! ABJURE!

ABJURE!

RENOUNCE THE DEVIL!

HER BODY WEARY FROM HER ILLNESS AND BATTLE WOUNDS, HER MIND BECLOUDED BY THE CEASELESS QUESTIONING AT HER TRIAL, JOAN SIGNED...

And—I further promise to resume the dress of a woman.

JOAN HAD SIGNED A CONFESSION, ADMITTING SHE HAD BEEN A SORCERESS, A LIAR, A BLASPHEMER, A SOLDIER OF SATAN, ETC. AND SHE PROMISED TO RESUME THE DRESS OF A WOMAN.

GAUCHON HAD HIS CONFESSION, BUT DARED NOT PRONOUNCE THE DEATH PENALTY...

SO YE MAY REPENT YOUR CRIMES, AND COMMIT NO MORE, YOU ARE SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

THE ENGLISH WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE VERDICT...

WE'LL HAVE HER DRESS STOLEN FROM HER IN PRISON. THEN, CATCHING HER IN MEN'S CLOTHES, WHICH WE'LL PLACE IN HER CELL, WE CAN BURN HER FOR BREAKING HER VOWS.

CAUCHON'S EVIL PLAN WORKED, AND SO, ON MAY 30, 1431, WAS COMITTED ONE OF THE MOST INFAMOUS CRIMES IN HISTORY...

THE ENGLISH MADE THEIR GREATEST MISTAKE BY BURNING JOAN. HER DEATH SO AROUSED THE ANGRY FRENCH, THAT THEY FOUGHT WITH NEW AND INCREASED FURY AND BY 1453 DROVE THE ENGLISH FROM THEIR SOIL.

IN 1456, THE CHURCH ABSOLVED JOAN OF ALL CHARGES AND IN 1909, SHE WAS BEATIFIED BY POPE PIUS X. THEN IN 1919, JOAN OF ARC WAS CREATED A SAINT.

DOG HEROES

SKEETER—A SLEEPER

SKEETER is a fair-sized dog, tipping the beams at 40 pounds. And by his easy-swinging tail you can tell that Skeeter is proud of all his ancestors which comprise many and varied breeds. Skeeter is a happy, friendly dog belonging to Mr. Howard Spiller of St. Louis. When folks who are perplexed by Skeeter's unusual appearance inquire as to his background, Mr. Spiller explains that Skeeter is a Sleeper.

"You'll always find him sleeping behind the counter of the store," Mr. Spiller says. And it was not so long ago that Mr. Spiller and his wife were mighty glad that Skeeter is a sleeper. It all began when Mr. and Mrs. Spiller, who was helping her husband, prepared to close their store late one night when business had been unusually heavy. They were counting up the money in the register and scarcely looked up as the front door closed.

"Sorry, we're closed for the night," Mr. Spiller said, and he turned to his wife. "I thought you closed the front door."

"I thought so too," she answered.

"We're not buying a thing," said one of the two visitors. Mr. Spiller looked up and into the grim, threatening barrel of a pistol. "Just keep quiet and you won't get hurt," said the bandit. His companion pulled a pistol from his pocket too and, levelling it at Mrs. Spiller, began to fill his pockets with the money on the counter. Mr. Spiller involuntarily made a move to protect his hard-earned money and Mrs. Spiller cried out in warning to her husband: 'Give it to them."

As she afterwards explained, she meant that her husband should not attempt to save the money at the expense of his life. But the sleeping dog behind the counter understood the alarm in her voice as a command to attack the robbers. And he didn't wait for the command to be repeated. In a flash, the gentle, friendly Skeeter was transformed into a howling fury as the safety of his home was threatened. Racing from behind the counter, he flung himself at the nearest of the bandits with bared fangs flashing — biting, snarling, growling — as the panicky bandits attempted to beat him off with the pistols in their flailing arms.

Skeeter flung himself at their arms, then next at their feet, nipping and biting, and barking, and never giving the holdup men a chance to set themselves against his attack.

Mr. and Mrs. Spiller watched in amazement as the frightened bandits beat a retreat to the door. Skeeter followed them step by step, snarling, snapping, and barking. The holdup men flung out of the door and rattled the glass in the pane as they slammed the door behind them. Skeeter had completely routed them. The commotion he raised had made the robbery impossible because even as he raged beside the door which separated him from the bandits, people were gathering outside the Spiller's store.

Today when visitors enter Mr. Spiller's store and ask what kind of a dog Skeeter is, Mr. Spiller still says that he is a sleeper, but he reminds his customers that two bandits found out the truth of the proverb that "it's best to let sleeping dogs lie," — or sleep.

PIONEERS OF SCIENCE

FRIEDRICH, BARON VON HUMBOLDT

Discovery of the Science of Geography

THE science of geography is a study of the relationship between the physical features of the earth, and the nature, location, and activities of the living things on the earth. By physical features we mean the mountains and valleys, the oceans, the different soils, climates, and minerals. By living things we mean plants, animals, and human beings. Geography is a very interesting science and the father of this subject was a German naturalist and traveler . . . Friedrich Heinrich Alexander Humboldt. .

Humboldt was born in Berlin Sept. 14, 1769, the younger of two sons of a famous major in the Prussian Army who was given a royal post after the end of the Seven Years' War. Thus, Humboldt and his brother Karl received the best teaching of the times.

Humboldt, a sickly child, early showed where his interests lay. While still a youngster, he began collecting and labeling plants, shells and insects. However, when he grew older, Humboldt was told by his father that he would have to prepare for a political career, to uphold the family tradition.

Although Humboldt's father died suddenly, Humboldt, to please his mother, continued his political studies at the Universities of Frankfort and Gottingen. Here, Humboldt, whose secret ambition was to become a scientific explorer, made the acquaintance of George Forster, son-in-law of a famous explorer who traveled with Captain Cook.

Because of his mother, Humboldt restricted his travels, but together with Forster, he made geological and botanical studies of England, Austria, Italy and Switzerland. Meanwhile, he was appointed assessor of mines at Berlin, and although disliking the job, worked so well that he was soon appointed head of the department.

Upon the death of his mother, Humboldt was free to follow his chosen career. He teamed up with Aimé Bonpland, French botanist, and they went to Madrid, Spain where they equipped a ship to sail for Spanish America.

They traveled extensively through South America and Cuba. In Cuba, they explored the basin of the Magdalena River. In Quito, Humboldt climbed the famous ascent of Chimborazo to an altitude of 19,000 feet. At Caracas, they began following the course of the Orinoco River until it joined the Upper Amazon. This trip lasted four months and covered 1,725 miles of wild and uninhabited country. In the Andes Mountains of Peru, Humboldt studied electrical and astronomical phases due to the high climate.

Wherever Humboldt traveled, he made extensive study and took notes, and where possible, specimens. Among his accomplishments are the discovery of the origin of tropical storms; he constructed a table rate for the decrease in temperature to the proportional increase in elevation above sea level; the study and introduction into Europe of the Quinine plant; worked out the proper theory of the magnetic forces of the North and South Poles; and proved that nations of peoples are affected by their plant life and what they eat.

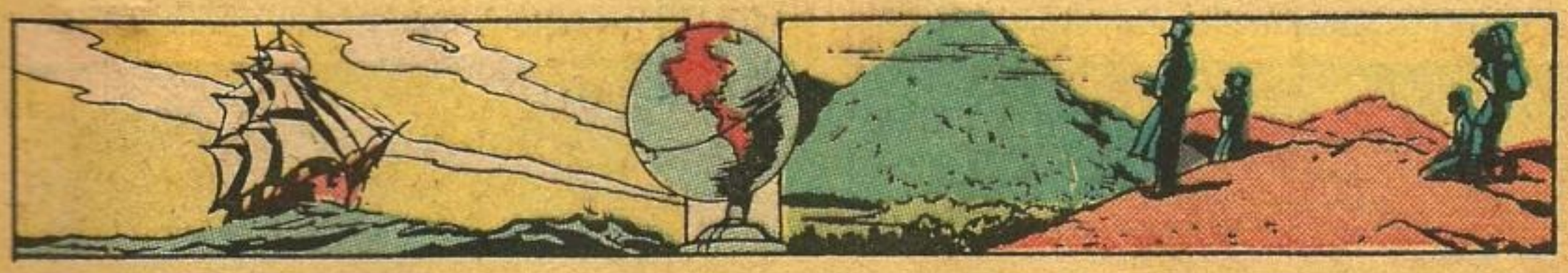
Returning home, Humboldt decided to publish his mass of material in book form. He hoped the task would not take more than two years, but it was twenty-one years before he wrote the last volume. Altogether, Humboldt published 30 volumes and 1,425 copper plate illustrations were used.

His books, as soon as they came off the presses, were quickly translated into many languages. King Fredrich of Prussia gave him a life pension and insisted that Humboldt reside at court and be his companion.

But Humboldt could not stand the idle, useless life at the royal court. In 1829, he accepted an invitation from the Czar of Russia to explore that country. For the Czar, he discovered diamonds and other precious metals in the Ural Mountains.

Returning home, Humboldt wrote a four volume encyclopaedic account of the physical universe. That was the true beginning of the science of geography.

He died on May 6, 1859.



FAMOUS OPERAS

THE KING'S HENCHMAN

By Deems Taylor

REPORTS of a beautiful maiden, Aelfrida of Devon, have reached the ears of King Eadgar of England, a widower. Anxious to remarry, King Eadgar would like to confirm her beauty.

He decides to send his friend and foster-brother, Aethelwold, to Devon. Young and inexperienced concerning women, Aethelwold does not feel confident enough to take the responsibility. However, Eadgar finally persuades him to go. The king and Aethelwold drink a toast from the same cup of wine, an old Saxon custom which pledges friendship.

Aethelwold departs, accompanied by Maccus, servant and friend, and his followers. During the journey, a heavy mist causes Aethelwold and Maccus to become separated from their men. Weary, Aethelwold decides to rest in a forest. Maccus continues to search for the rest of the party. Although he does not know it, Aethelwold is actually resting in a forest of Devon.

Aethelwold falls asleep. Aelfrida, the maiden whom he seeks, approaches, accompanied by her servant, Ase. The mist lifts, revealing the sleeping Aethelwold. Somewhat frightened, but fascinated by the handsome youth at her feet, she rouses him with a kiss.

Aethelwold awakens. Before him stands a beautiful maiden whom he believes cannot be mortal. She believes the same of him. After explanations, they are convinced that each is a human and that they are in love with each other.

Suddenly, Ase calls Aelfrida's name. She leaves Aethelwold, who is completely taken by surprise. His first impulse is to rush away, but before he can do so, Aelfrida calls to him.

Aethelwold is torn between his loyalty to King Eadgar and his newfound love for Aelfrida. He does not follow the warnings of his conscience — to leave and never return.

Instead, he contrives to send Maccus back to the king with a falsehood. Maccus is to tell the king that Aelfrida is ugly but rich. He is to ask the king's permission for Aethelwold to marry Aelfrida because Aethelwold is poor. The king consents, not knowing that he is being deceived.

As time passes, Aethelwold is conscience-stricken and tormented by his betrayal of friendship to the king. At the same time, Aelfrida's enthusiasm for her marriage is subsiding. Her personal ambition of being accepted at court as the king's foster-brother's wife has never been realized. She does not know of the deception.

One day, Maccus rushes to Aethelwold with the news that the king and his retinue are approaching. Now, Aethelwold is forced to tell Aelfrida the truth, that she was denied marriage to the king through a falsehood. Aethelwold is now at the mercy of Aelfrida.

He contrives a plan that will protect him from being discovered. He begs her to disguise herself as an ugly woman and feign illness. Then he will escort the king to her chamber.

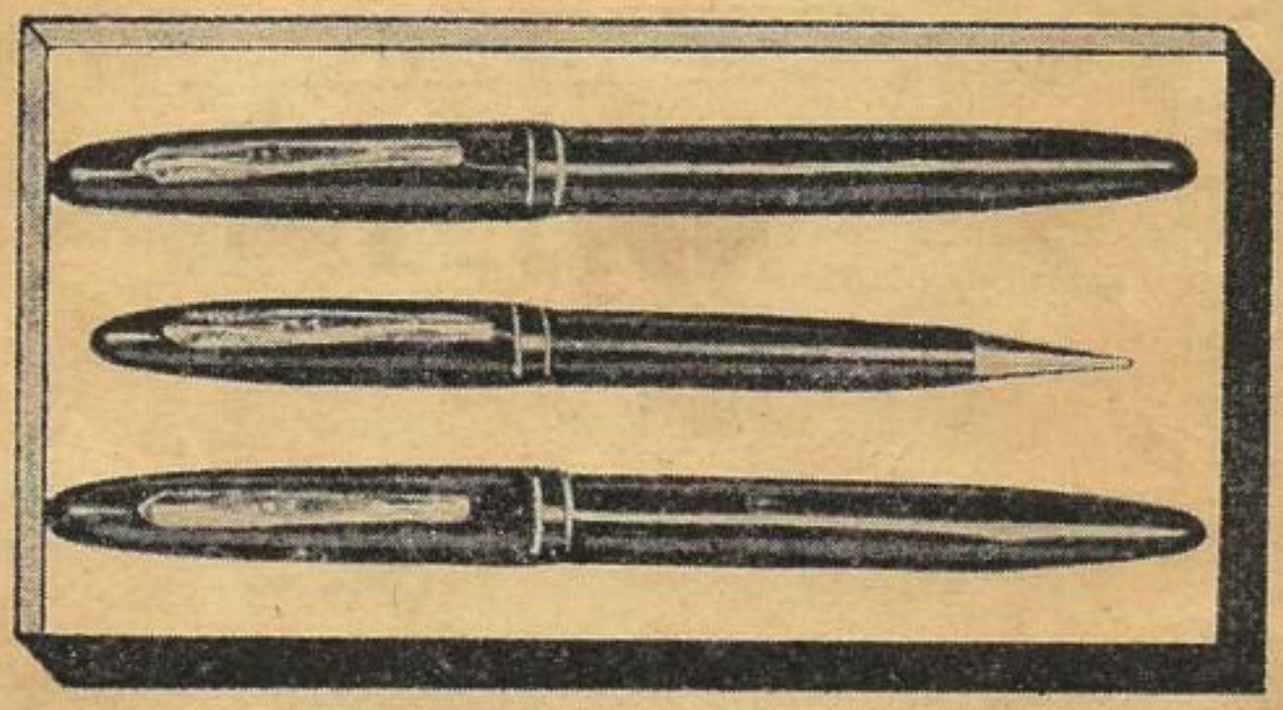
King Eadgar arrives. He and Aethelwold exchange greetings, then go to Aelfrida's chamber. When they reach her door, she opens it herself and appears splendidly beautiful in gown and jewels. Eadgar is dazzled. Sudden realization of the faithlessness of his friend deeply grieves him.

Aethelwold, himself deceived by Aelfrida, takes a dagger and stabs himself. Maccus supports the dying man. The king moves from Aelfrida and walks over to the dying man and gazes down upon him. He bids Maccus to put him down. His sorrow for his friend is shown as he laments for Aethelwold. He is joined by those who take up the dead man and bear him away in a solemn procession. The widowed Aelfrida is left to follow alone.

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

THIS BEAUTIFUL 3-PIECE

PEN AND PENCIL SET



A BALL-POINT PEN

A LEVER FOUNTAIN PEN

AND A MECHANICAL PENCIL

Yours absolutely *FREE OF CHARGE* with a 1-year subscription to

CLASSICS *Illustrated* FOR ONLY **$1.80**

This set is our gift to you and will be mailed promptly. Your subscription will begin with next month's issue and will bring you a new reading thrill each month for a full year.

The supply of these beautiful sets is limited. So fill out the coupon below and *MAIL IT NOW! TODAY!*

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE FILL OUT COUPON OR A FACSIMILE AND MAIL NOW!

GILBERTON CO., INC. DEPT. S 101 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

Herewith is _____. Enter my subscription for _____ forthcoming issues of CLASSICS *Illustrated*, to be sent postpaid as issued. I am also to receive, *ABSOLUTELY FREE*, the 3-piece *PEN AND PENCIL SET* illustrated above.

Name _____

Address _____

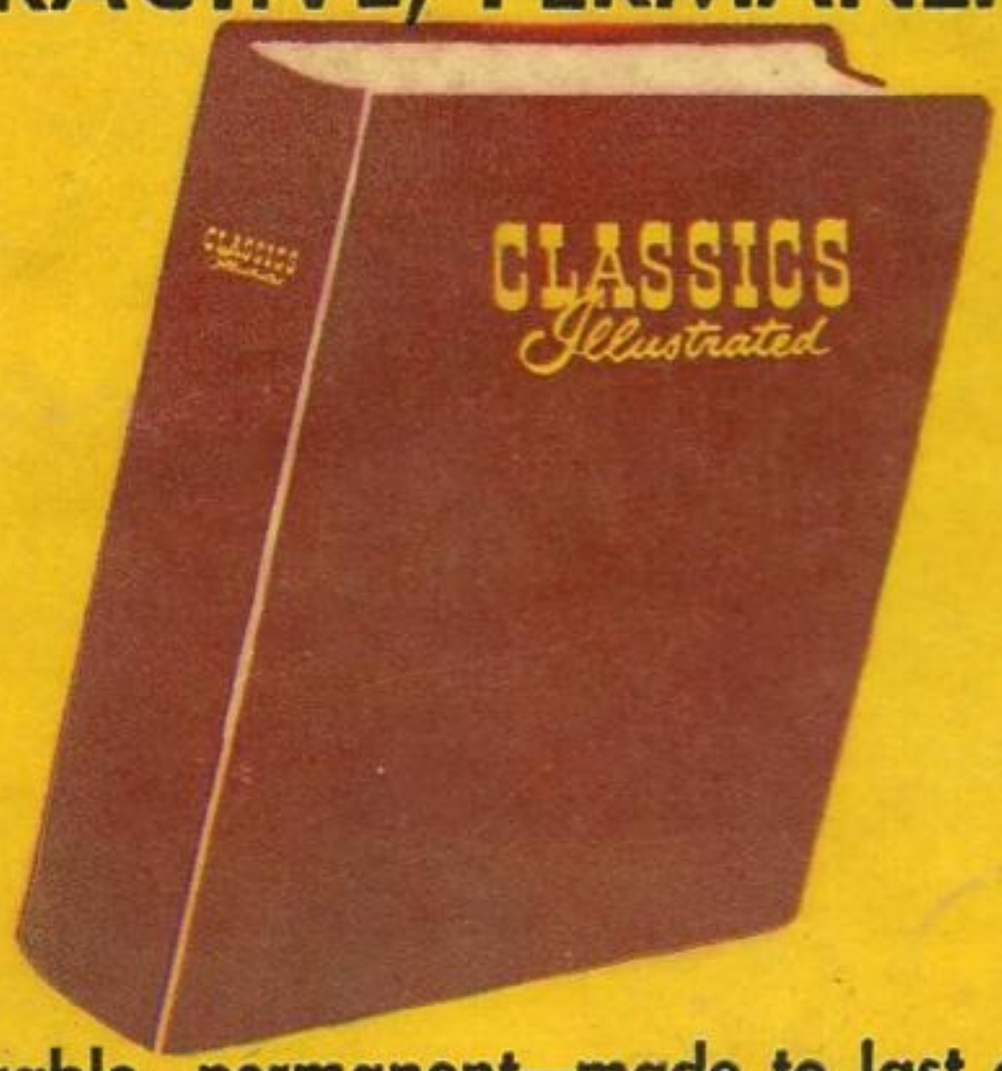
City _____ Zone ____ State _____

BUILD YOUR OWN LIBRARY

COLLECT AND PRESERVE YOUR COPIES OF

CLASSICS *Illustrated*

IN AN ATTRACTIVE, PERMANENT BINDER



HANDSOME, durable, permanent—made to last a lifetime of handling. Each binder holds 12 books securely. Each is covered in beautiful, brown simulated leather and is richly imprinted in gold on both cover and backbone.

Simple instructions make binding possible in a matter of minutes.

GET YOURS NOW $1.00 EACH POSTPAID ($1.50 in Canada)

Fill out coupon below or a facsimile and

MAIL NOW! TODAY!

GILBERTON CO., Inc. DEPT. S 101 FIFTH AVE. NEW YORK 3, N. Y.
IN CANADA: GILBERTON CO. (CANADA) LTD. BOX 311 TERMINAL "A" TORONTO 1, CAN.

Herewith is $..... Please send ..... binders, postpaid.

Name_____
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address_____

City_____ **Zone**____ **State**_____